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OCT 31 2001 IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

OIPF/JCWS

In re application of:

Alice H. Howe

TENNIS RACQUET EQUIPPED
WITH A TENNIS BALL RETRIEVER

Attorney Docket No.: MPH-99-46

Application No: 09/655,743

Art Unit 3711

Examiner: Raleigh W. Chiu

Filing Date: 9/06/2000

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

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SUPPLEMENTAL CLAIM ADDENDUM

1. (First Amended) A combination of a tennis racquet equipped with a ball retrieving attachment attached to a shoulder of the racquet in a ball retrieving position for engaging and lifting a grounded tennis ball upon tangential contact with said tennis ball, said attachment comprising a hooked fastener material adhesively attached to a convex outer perimeter portion of the shoulder so as to permit the hooked fastener material to make the tangential contact with said grounded tennis ball, with said hooked fastener material having a series of pre-shrunken nylon monofilament hooks for engaging and lifting the grounded tennis ball upon the tangential contact, with said hooks being characterized as having an average monofilament diameter greater than 8.0 mil and an average hook height of at least 1.70 mm.

10. (First amended) A method for retrieving a grounded tennis ball[s] with a tennis racquet equipped with a ball retrieving attachment attached along an outer peripheral edge of a shoulder of the tennis racquet with the hooked material positioned thereupon at a retrieving position for engaging and lifting a grounded tennis ball upon tangential contact therewith, said method comprising:

a) providing a strip of a hooked material having a pressure sensitive adhesive applied to a resilient backing member equipped with a plurality of pre-shrunken nylon monofilament hooks of an average monofilament diameter of at least 8.0 mil, an average hook height of at least 1.85 mm, an average hook width of at least 1.0 mm, and an average depth of at

10 least 0.6mm, with the hooks being of a spiral configuration arranged in repetitive rows of at least
11 250 hooks per square inch;

12 b) applying the pressure sensitive strip to the outer peripheral edge of the
13 shoulder of the tennis racquet at the retrieving position so as to permit the nylon monofilament
14 hooks of the hooked material to make the tangential contact with the grounded tennis ball;

15 c) tangentially contacting the grounded tennis ball [onto the strip] with the
16 nylon monofilament hooks of said hooked material so as to engage and hook a tennis ball nap of
17 the grounded tennis ball onto [the hooks] said nylon monofilament hooks [of the strip];

18 d) lifting the hooked tennis ball engaged by the nylon monofilament hooks
19 with the tennis racquet; and

20 e) retrieving the lifted tennis ball from the strip.